

# **THE CITY OF TRINIDAD REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

## **U.S. EPA Brownfield Grant Application and Implementation Assistance**

**RFQ Release Date: September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**Proposal Due Date: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**

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### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **1.1 Purpose of this Request for Proposals**

The City of Trinidad, CO (the City) through this Request for Qualifications (RFQ), is seeking a qualified environmental consulting and/or planning firm to provide assistance with: (a) securing United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and potentially other federal or state grants for the assessment, cleanup, or redevelopment of brownfields properties and (b) implementation of environmental assessment, remedial planning, community outreach, and other environmental or planning components of grants for which funding is secured. The focus for the contract will be for securing one or more U.S. EPA assessment grants as part of the U.S. EPA's annual Brownfields Grant Competition for FY2015. This solicitation is being issued in part to comply with Federal procurement standards outlined in CFR §31.36 that are applicable to the hiring of consulting firms to assist communities with grants awarded by U.S. EPA.

#### **1.2 Background Information**

Brownfields are defined by U.S. EPA as: *“real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant”*

The purpose of the U.S. EPA brownfields assessment grant is to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments (ESAs) at brownfield sites located within the City. The objectives of the City may expand at a later date to include actual cleanup of individual sites targeted for assessment, depending on the future availability of funding. The successful consultant will bring experience and insight to a partnership with the City to obtain and implement these grants as well as explore other grants and brownfields initiatives as funds become available.

The number and location of brownfields sites within the City is presently undetermined, as well as the economic impact of these sites in depressing property values, hindering redevelopment of high priority areas, and furthering the City's goals with respect to Smart-Growth and sustainable land practices. One outcome of the U.S. EPA assessment grants, if secured, will be to develop an inventory and other information related to these sites to allow for more effective planning by the City in furthering their assessment, cleanup if necessary, and redevelopment.

### **1.3 Type of Contract and Contract Term**

The City prefers to award a contract to one full-service firm to serve as a partner in successfully obtaining initial U.S. EPA brownfield grant funding and then achieving the goals within the subsequent U.S. EPA Cooperative Agreement (CA) and Work Plan. The contract period will begin with the start of grant application activities (which should commence no later than the publication of the grant application guidelines - typically 60 days prior to grant due date) and continue through the subsequent implementation period for any successful grants. The contract period may be extended at the option of the City if additional grant funds are obtained.

### **1.4 Payment Procedures**

Payments for grant preparation services will be on a lump sum basis, as outlined below in the Cost section. Payments for implementation of any successful grants will be made no more than monthly, for work specified and completed and in accordance with the budget developed and approved by the City and the EPA.

## **2. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

### **2.1 Activities Required Under this Request for Qualifications**

The City seeks a qualified consultant who is expected to provide a wide range of potential grant, assessment, and planning services to the City. The scope of work to be performed by the successful consultant, at a minimum, is expected to include:

- Assisting the City with the preparation of applications for U.S. EPA Community-Wide Assessment Grants for Petroleum (\$200,000) and Hazardous Substances (\$200,000) for FY 2015.
- Provide assistance with revision and resubmittal of application(s) as part of the FY2016 competition, if the one or more of the initial applications is unsuccessful.
- Provide assistance with development of U.S. EPA-required project work plan(s) for applications that are successful.
- Prepare and maintain schedules and budgets for assessment or cleanup activities.
- Conduct and oversee site assessment studies and prepare appropriate technical reports required by the U.S. EPA and/or the State of Colorado EPA in print and electronic format.
- Field investigations including sample collection and lab analysis.
- Interviews with neighboring property owners.
- Evaluation of cleanup options and risk assessment analysis and costs.
- Preparation of a written Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) in compliance with U.S. EPA regulations.
- Completed Phase I and Phase II ESA reports, site investigation reports, response action plans and other environmental reports or plans required under the applicable Colorado environmental regulations.
- Project management, implementation, and/or technical oversight.
- Professional advice regarding environmental issues associated with land reuse/redevelopment.
- Provide regulatory and financial information as needed.
- Attend meetings of the City and advisory committees as requested.
- Prepare presentations to provide information about the project's progress as requested.

- Assist with conductance of community-wide inventory of potential hazardous substance and petroleum brownfields sites.
- Develop preliminary budget, financing options and implementation plan for cleanup/reuse.
- Complete contaminant characterization and risk assessments as determined necessary following Phase II activities (as funds allow).
- Involve public and private opportunities for citizen participation throughout all phases of projects.
- Comprehensive community outreach program and public participation program.
- Implement site specific cleanup or remediation (if future funding becomes available through this or another grant funded program).
- Urban redevelopment planning and market research as related to environmental site reuse.

## 2.2 Project Budget

The budget for the initial U.S. EPA grant application assistance will be negotiated with the successful consultant. The total budget for each successful U.S. EPA brownfield assessment grant is \$200,000. The City and the successful consultant will develop budgets for assessment activities at individual sites as the project progresses as specific sites are identified for assessment. The budget for any future related grants executed under this contract will be negotiated with the consultant if and when such funding becomes available. It will be the City's option whether or not to utilize this contract for future brownfields grants beyond the initial U.S. EPA assessment grant application and implementation projects.

## 2.3 Project Management

The successful consultant, under the direction from the City, will:

1. Work with the City in writing the text for each grant application.
2. Compile any associated demographic data to bolster the grant application.
3. Assist the City with solicitation of letters of support from the State of Colorado, Congressional representatives, and local stakeholders.
4. Review existing comprehensive plans as they relate to redevelopment within the City and specific site reuse.
5. Facilitate community outreach activities as needed to enhance the grant application.
6. Coordinate any necessary activities with U.S. EPA Region 8 staff for U.S. EPA grant(s).

## 3. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 General Expectations

Consultants are asked to submit concise proposals describing their capacity and success within the U.S. EPA Brownfield Grant Program as well as their ability to manage and implement these types of grant-funded projects on behalf of local units of government. The proposals should include a clear outline of how the firm would help the City in preparing successful grant applications as well as the firm's ability to fully and effectively meet the requirements of assisting with implementation of grant(s) secured. Any clarification or questions regarding this proposal shall be submitted in writing or via email to the below contact person, clarification will be provided within 3 business days, **phone calls or in person visits will not be accepted.**

Louis Fineberg  
Planning Director  
City of Trinidad  
135 N. Animas Street  
Trinidad, CO 81082  
louis.fineberg@trinidad.co.gov.

### 3.2 Proposals

Proposals should be prepared on standard size paper and limited to ten single sided (10) pages, exclusive of a maximum of five (5) resumes, limited to 2 pages each. Standard advertising brochures should not be included in the proposal. The proposal shall include the following information in the order presented below:

**Business Organization.** This section shall include the firm's name, areas of expertise, a brief history of the firm, size, office locations, and business addresses. The name, address, and telephone number of a contact person and/or prospective project manager regarding the proposal shall be included.

**Management Outline and Project Approach.** A description of the project and how the consulting firm will work with the City in preparing successful U.S. EPA brownfields assessment grant application(s) and subsequent implementation of said brownfields grants. This section shall include the applicant's approach to grant preparation, community outreach activities, planning, organization, and management. Each consulting firm shall provide a list of proposed key personnel.

**Experience and Capabilities.** The relevant management and technical experience and capabilities of the consulting firm shall be defined with respect to the following activities related to implementation of any successful grants:

#### A. Project Experience of Key Personnel:

- Experience preparing successful U.S. EPA brownfield grant applications
- Conducting Phase I and Phase II ESAs.
- Conducting environmental investigations and cleanups.
- Conducting environmental activities in association with plant deactivations.
- Project experience in implementing U.S. EPA grant funded projects performed on behalf of local units of government.
- Development/redevelopment experience and market feasibility research.
- Redevelopment planning and community involvement activities related to brownfields properties.
- Performance of environmental inventories utilizing GIS in conjunction with U.S. EPA brownfields grants.
- Other areas of expertise relevant to the project (optional).

#### B. Regulatory and Scientific/Technical Knowledge:

- Knowledge and expertise pertaining to federal and state environmental grant

- programs and track record preparing successful grant applications.
- Knowledge and expertise pertaining to federal & state environmental statutes or associated regulations.
- Knowledge and expertise pertaining to EPA environmental and other Federal, laws, and regulations.
- Knowledge and expertise pertaining to OSHA and other health and safety rules or requirements.
- Individual staff knowledge and technical experience relative to ESAs, brownfield projects and contaminated site remediation.

### **C. Cost**

Provide a lump sum cost to prepare a U.S. EPA Community-Wide Assessment Grant for Petroleum Brownfields in the amount of \$200,000 and a separate application for Hazardous Substance Brownfields in the amount of \$200,000. This should include and itemize grant preparation fees and any applicable success fees for each respective grant application. In the event one or both of the grant applications are not successful the consultant shall provide a lump sum cost to participate in a debriefing with U.S. EPA and prepare a resubmittal of any unsuccessful grant applications for FY 2015. The consultant shall also provide a current fee schedule including staff that would likely be involved in the grant implementation, the prices on which shall be fixed for a period of not less than 12 months.

All representative project descriptions provided shall include the location of the project, the name and phone number of a knowledgeable contact person, and other pertinent information. The City may contact said persons to check on past performance records.

The selected consultant will be required to assume responsibility for all services offered in the proposal, including any services provided by subcontractors. Further, the City will consider the consultant to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract. The consultant is responsible for adherence by the subcontractors to all provisions of the contract.

### **3.3 General Process**

The City will review and evaluate the proposals with the following criteria in mind: successful track record in obtaining grant funding; expertise related to relevant project component; firm and staff experience related to brownfields assessment, cleanup and redevelopment planning; project approach; familiarity with local communities; ability to facilitate public outreach activities; demonstrated ability to provide comprehensive and innovative environmental services; and cost. The City reserves the right to accept or reject proposals on any basis it deems appropriate.

### **3.4 Terms and Conditions**

The process of selecting organizations to provide consultation services for the City's benefit requires the accumulation of comprehensive and accurate information to ensure that a knowledgeable, objective decision can be made as well as compliance with Federal procurement standards outlined in CFR §31.36 for the implementation portion of this proposal and subsequent successful grant applications.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or portions thereof without stated cause. The City reserves the right to re-issue any RFQ or cancel the RFQ if none of the proposals are deemed satisfactory to the City.

Upon selection of a finalist, the City by its proper officials shall attempt to negotiate and reach a final agreement with the finalist. If the City, for any reason, is unable to reach a final agreement with this finalist; the City then reserves the right to reject such finalist and negotiate a final agreement with another finalist who has the next most viable proposal. The City may also elect to reject all proposals and re-issue a new RFQ.

Clarification of proposals: The City reserves the right to obtain clarification of any point in a proposal or obtain additional information. Any request for clarification or other correspondence related to the RFQ shall be in writing or email, and a response shall be provided within 2 business days.

The City is not bound to accept the proposal with the lowest cost, but may accept the proposal that demonstrates the best ability to meet the needs of the City. The City reserves the right to waive any formalities, defects, or irregularities, in any proposal, response, and/or submittal where the acceptance, rejection, or waiving of such is in the best interests of the City. The City reserves the right to disqualify any proposal, before or after opening, upon evidence of collusion, intent to defraud, or any other illegal practice on the part of the Proposer.

### **3.5 Public Information**

Information supplied by the Proposer to the City of Trinidad in subject to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA). Such information shall become public unless it falls within one of the exceptions in the statute, such as security information, trade secret information, or labor relations information. If the Proposer believes any information which is not public will be supplied in response to this RFQ, the vendor shall take reasonable steps to identify for the City what data, if any, it believes falls within the exceptions. If the proposal data is not marked in such a way as to identify non-public data, the City will treat the information as public and release it upon request. In addition, the City reserves the right to make the final determination of whether data identified by the proposer as not public falls within the exceptions within the statute.

### **3.6 Proposal Time Schedule**

The timeline for completion of this request for proposals is outlined below.

September 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Formal announcement date for RFQ
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	Deadline for submittal of proposals
October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Proposal evaluation is completed (anticipated)
October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2012	Contract inception date (anticipated – actual date will depend on approval by committee(s) and the City Council.

### **3.7 Notification of Award**

The City of Trinidad plans to select a consultant by approximately October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Should either party fail to execute a contract within 30 days of notification of award, the City reserves the right to rescind the award and select services from another interested firm.

### **3.8 Number of Proposals to Submit; Deadline, Mail, and Hand Delivery Addresses**

**One (1) original and five (5) copies** of the proposal must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. MST on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.**

The mailing and hand delivery address is:

City of Trinidad Planning Department  
Attn: Louis Fineberg  
135 N. Animas Street  
Trinidad, CO 81082

### **3.9 Late Proposals**

Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

## **4. VENDOR REQUIREMENTS**

### **1.1 Contracting With Disadvantaged Business Enterprises**

It is U.S. EPA policy to award a fair share of contracts to disadvantaged business firms. Accordingly, affirmative steps must be taken to ensure that disadvantaged businesses are utilized when possible as sources of supplies, equipment, and services. The City will ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that at least the U.S. EPA “fair share” objectives for prime contracts and subcontracts are made available to organizations owned or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, women, and historically black colleges and universities. The consultant shall agree to support the U.S. EPA’s disadvantaged business enterprise contract procurement program ensuring those businesses’ participation in subcontracts.

Affirmative steps include the following as a minimum:

1. Including qualified disadvantaged businesses on solicitation lists;
2. Ensuring that disadvantaged businesses are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
3. When economically feasible, dividing total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities so as to permit disadvantaged business participation;
4. Where the requirement permits, establishing delivery schedules which will encourage participation by disadvantaged businesses;
5. Using the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration, the Office of Minority Business Enterprise of the Department of Commerce, and the Community Services Administration as required;
6. Consultants are encouraged to procure goods and services from disadvantaged businesses.

## **1.2 Equal Employment Opportunity**

The Proposer agrees to comply with all federal, state, and local laws, resolutions, ordinances, rules, regulations, and executive orders pertaining to unlawful discrimination on account of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual preference, disability, or age. When required by law or requested by the City, the Proposer shall furnish a written affirmative action plan.